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New Lisbon 4th Mo. 25th 1845

William Lloyd Garrison

Esteemed Friend. Thee will probably be surprised in receiving a letter from me, as our personal acquaintance was only on meeting thee at the Anniversary some two years ago. and my motive in writing now is to invite thee to attend the Ohio American antislavery convention on the 5th of 6th Month next 1845. It is not only my own; but the ardent desire of all our friends in this country to see thee here, and hope no ordinary occurrence will disappoint us in thy attendance; whilst I grant, thee is the best Judge of what the cause requires of thee for the slaves redemption, It does appear to me, thee could not devote an equal length of time to better purpose — I suppose thee received a letter from our corresponding Secretary Jesse Holmes, inviting thee to attend, and should we have the pleasure of thy company, I hope thee will Accept of my house as thy home, during thy stay —. A word on some of our once devoted friends. I am really sorry to hear of [may I say] disaffection or alienation of Gro. Bradburn, and especially N. P. Rogers, as the latter in his present position has it more in his power perhaps than any other man to injure the onward march of Emancipation, in consequence of his geting up a new Herald of Freedom avowedly to supplant the old organ of the Society, by giving it the same name or title — When I look back on these former faithful friends I can't help exclaiming what is man, [even those we thought incorruptible] that we should put our trust in him. These two worthies I am fearful are worse than lost to the cause of the slave they were much respected in this quarter, particularly Rogers on account of his former devotion to the antislavery cause, so well as for

his pleasing and eccentick editorials. On this account he was a great favorite with my wife; in fact I believe this favoritism has made him the spoiled child of Abolitionists. It is evident to any mind on reading the whole proceedings of Rogers & French, that they are in the wrong, that I am surprised that any impartial person could for a moment countenance such glaring inconsistancy, to give it no worse name. probably Rogers' self esteem in relying on his popularity as an editor ~~him~~ to draw largely in anticipation of his former friends, together with the persuations of disaffected abolitionists; or he ~~would~~ never would have taken the responcibility of Starting "the Herald of Freedom" Much as I once admired him as a man and an editor, I would no more patronise his new herald than I would the most Rabid proslavery paper in all the South. My course in respect to Rogers ~~has~~ has convinced me that to secure the friendship; or to be deterred by threats of the bitterest enemies could never make the Recreant to the cause to which so much of my life has been devoted. When I forsake the cause I shall lose all hopes of reformers. With respect to political abolition organisation, I could never Join them, altho' I am a voting abolitionist on my aim is to secure the balance of power without political organisation and apply that power mainly to loosing the shackles of the Slave, matters of expediency to be merged in the righteous cause in which we are engaged I have thought there was too much crimination and recrimination between old & new organisation. Our third political party here in the west, is very different from your P. political party in the East, they wont compare at all the Women's right question never disturbed us here, we were not so ungallant as to deny them an equal footing on the broad platform of equal right to be heard. Your new organsid political party are full of bitter invective against old organisation not so here, I do know and no mistake, that we have many truly sincere friends of the slave in this country, and altho' we may differ (which we have right to do) in carrying out our views, I ought not to be made a matter of discord

or ill will be between abolitionists, I am content that all labor sincerely in the cause for the good of the enslaved in their own way, it is no more to be expected that all will act alike than that we should all look alike. But I must conclude I have spun out a long letter, hope thee may not tire in reading it, please use thy influence sending us efficient public speakers, as well as favoring us with thy company &

Remain thy friend in the cause of humanity

W. B. Irish

William L Garrison

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William Lloyd Garrison

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